

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 PM-09 AID-20 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 GAC-01

RSR-01 /099 W

----- 059058

R 130545 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 756

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CINCPACREP CANBERRA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, AS, ID

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE MINISTER BARNARD'S INDONESIAN
VISIT RECEIVES MODERATE PRESS COVERAGE IN AUSTRALIA

REF: A) JAKARTA 4267 B) CANBERRA 1913

1. DEFMIN BARNARD'S INDONESIAN VISIT RECEIVED MODERATE AMOUNT OF PRESS COVERAGE IN AUSTRALIA FOR 2-3 DAYS AFTER HIS ARRIVAL BACK IN CANBERRA. MOST STORIES REPORTED VISIT ON FACTUAL BASIS WITH VERY LITTLE ATTEMPT MADE TO ANALYZE ANY PARTICULAR ASPECT. MOST STORIES CARRY INDICATION THAT BARNARD PROMISED ADDITIONAL MILITARY AID TO INDONESIA AFTER EXPIRATION OF CURRENT 3- YEAR \$20 MILLION AUSTRALIAN AID PROGRAM. THEY ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THE GIFT OF PATROL BOATS AND NOMAD AIRCRAFT AS PART OF THE CURRENT PROGRAM.

2. TWO MATTERS WHICH WERE MENTIONED IN THE LOCAL PRESS WHICH DID NOT APPARENTLY RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION IN OTHER REPORTS ON THE VISIT ARE: A) BARNARD'S APPARENT DESIRE TO ENGAGE THE INTERESTS OF ALL THREE INDONESIAN SERVICES IN JOINT MILITARY EXERCISES. MR. BARNARD IS REPORTED TO HAVE INVITED INDONESIAN NAVY PARTICIPAT-
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ION IN AN EXERCISE IN AUSTRALIAN WATERS IN EITHER THE AUG/ SEPT OR OCT/ NOV TIMEFRAME. HE IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE SUGGESTED THAT AN AUSTRALIAN ARMY CONTINGENT COULD PARTICIPATE IN AN INDONESIAN EXERCISE IN THE 2 ND QUARTER OF CALENDAR 1974. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT JOINT EXERCISES COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL SOME TIME IN 1975, IT APPEARS THAT MR. BARNARD WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN PUSHING FOR EARLY BEGINNING OF JOINT EXERCISES WITH INDONESIA. B) AT THE HANDOVER OF THE F86 AIRCRAFT AT ISWAHYUDI AIR BASE, THE INDONESIAN DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL PANGGABEAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE PROMISED THAT AUSTRALIAN AID SUCH AS THE F86 AIRCRAFT WOULD NEITHER BE USED OFFENSIVELY BY THE INDONESIAN ARMED FORCES NOR AGAINST AUSTRALIA IN PARTICULAR.

3. COMMENT: APPARENT LACK OF MEDIA INTEREST IN BARNARD' S VISIT PROBABLY DUE TO HIS FOLLOWING WHITLAM' S VISIT TO INDONESIA AFTER SUCH A SHORT INTERIM. AS INDICATED REF B, GOA OFFICIALS LOOKED UPON BARNARD VISIT AS PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF HANDING OVER FORMALLY THE F86 AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH BARNARD APPARENTLY TRIED TO GET INDONESIAN APPROVAL FOR SOME SPECIFIC JOINT EXERCISES, HE MAY HAVE BEEN MOVING TOO FAST IN THIS FIELD AND WAS SATISFIED IN THE END TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE FOR SUCH EXERCISES BEGINNING IN 1975. GENERAL PANGGABEAN' S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THE F86 AIRCRAFT WOULD NEVER BE USED AGAINST AUSTRALIA OR FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES, APPARENTLY RECOGNIZES INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND ENCOURAGES CONTINUED AUSTRALIAN MILITARY AID.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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